

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**1-12. (Cancelled)**

**13. (New)** An epithelial cell growth promoter which comprises at least one selected from water-soluble oligopeptides and water-soluble salts thereof having 3 to 7 amino acid units containing a prolyl-isoleucyl-glycyl unit or an isoleucyl-glycyl-seryl unit as an active ingredient.

**14. (New)** The epithelial cell growth promoter according to claim 13, wherein the water-soluble oligopeptide is prolyl-isoleucyl-glycine.

**15. (New)** The epithelial cell growth promoter according to claim 13, wherein the water-soluble oligopeptide is isoleucyl-glycyl-serine.

**16. (New)** The epithelial cell growth promoter according to claim 13, wherein the water-soluble oligopeptide comprises a prolyl-isoleucyl-glycyl unit and a glycyl unit or a seryl unit.

**17. (New)** The epithelial cell growth promoter according to claim 16, wherein the water-soluble oligopeptide is glycyl-prolyl-isoleucyl-glycine.

**18. (New)** The epithelial cell growth promoter according to claim 16, wherein the water-soluble oligopeptide is prolyl-isoleucyl-glycyl-serine.

**19. (New)** The epithelial cell growth promoter according to claim 13, wherein the water-soluble oligopeptide is an oligopeptide comprising a glycyl-prolyl-isoleucyl-glycyl unit and a seryl unit or a threonyl unit.

**20. (New)** The epithelial cell growth promoter according to claim 19, wherein the water-soluble oligopeptide is glycyl-prolyl-isoleucyl-glycyl-serine.

**21. (New)** The epithelial cell growth promoter according to claim 19, wherein the water-soluble oligopeptide is glycyl-prolyl-isoleucyl-glycyl-threonine.

**22. (New)** The epithelial cell growth promoter according to claim 13, which is used for hair growth.

**23. (New)** The epithelial cell growth promoter according to claims 22, which is used for hair growth and active in the telogen phase of a hair cycle.

**24. (New)** A water-soluble oligopeptide and a water-soluble salt thereof having 3 to 7 amino acid units containing an isoleucyl-glycyl-seryl unit.

**25. (New)** The water-soluble oligopeptide and water-soluble salt thereof according to claim 24, wherein the oligopeptide is isoleucyl-glycyl-serine.

**26. (New)** A water-soluble oligopeptide and water-soluble salt thereof having 4 to 7 amino acid units containing a prolyl-isoleucyl-glycyl unit and a seryl unit.

**27. (New)** The water-soluble oligopeptide and water-soluble salt thereof according to claim 26, wherein the oligopeptide is prolyl-isoleucyl-glycyl-serine.

**28. (New)** A water-soluble oligopeptide and water-soluble salt thereof having 5 to 7 amino acid units containing a glycyl-prolyl-isoleucyl-glycyl unit and a seryl unit or a threonyl unit.

**29. (New)** The water-soluble oligopeptide and water-soluble salt thereof according to claim 28, wherein the oligopeptide is glycyl-prolyl-isoleucyl-glycyl-serine.

**30. (New)** The water-soluble oligopeptide and water-soluble salt thereof according to claim 28, wherein the oligopeptide is glycyl-prolyl-isoleucyl-glycyl-threonine.